



**Rutherford
Primary
School**



**3 February 2025
3 Hui-tanguru 2025**

KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU | GREETINGS EVERYONE

Kia ora e te whānau/Greetings families

Nau mai, haere mai ki wiki tahi. Welcome to week 1 of term 1, 2025. I hope you have all had a wonderful Summer break. Our staff have spent the last week doing a lot of professional learning preparing for a busy academic year.

This year we will be introducing the structured maths program Numicon. We will continue structured literacy in our junior classes and will be participating in a trial in the senior school of the Better Start Literacy program (BSLA).

We will be introducing the Mitey program as part of our health curriculum and will be sharing further information about this in upcoming newsletters.

Next week we have our whānau open afternoon, which is an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, see their learning space and spend time with other families. This will be on Thursday 13 February and starts at 3.15pm with an opportunity to pop into classes followed by an opportunity to picnic and play games from 4.30pm to 6pm. We hope that you can join us.

WHAT’S COMING UP AT RUTHERFORD IN 2025

- 3 February** Start of Term1
- 5 February** New to Rutherford Pōwhiri
- 6 February** Waitangi Day (School closed)
- 7 February** Staff Only Day (School Closed)
- 13 February** Whānau open afternoon
- 18 - 19 February** Cricket Awareness
- 20 February** School athletics day
- 25-26 February** Cricket Awareness
- 4-5 March** Cricket Awareness
- 7 March** NFL Flag Football
- 9 April** Cluster Ki-o-Rahi
- 10 April** End of term assembly
- 11 April** Last day of Term 1

Important Dates this year

- 28 April** Start of Term 2
- 2 June** King's Birthday
- 20 June** Matariki holiday
- 23 June** Ministry of Education Staff Only Day (School closed)
- 27 June** End of Term 2
- 14 July** Start of Term 3
- 18 September** End of Term 3
- 19 September** Ministry of Education Staff Only Day
- 6 October** Start of Term 4
- 27 October** Labour Day holiday
- 17 December** Last Day of Term 4

Other events may be added as the term progresses. Hubs will send notices for upcoming events through the parent portal.

WHAT’S ON TOP? He aha kei runga?

2025 Organisation

Leadership Team

Tumuaki/Principal: Amanda Bennett
Deputy Principal (Junior School): Catherine Collins
Deputy Principal (Senior School): Madhu Azam
Health & Physical Education Leader: Paul O’Leary-Ryan
Numeracy Leader: Ashika Kumar
Literacy Leader: Catherine Skudder
Kaiarahi Māori: Jeff Ruha

Admin Team

Principal PA: Diane Aukett
Secretary/Admin: Michelle Kelly
Caretaker: Aaron Plowman
Gardner: Rianna Davies

Specialist/Release Teachers

Mahi Toi - Jeff Ruha
Health & PE - Paul O’Leary-Ryan
Taiao/Enviro - Shaz Hathaway
Eva Musalears - BSLA

Release Teachers

Meera Surrendran
Margaret Martin
Robert Burton

Year 6 Hub

Vikki McRae - Ruru
Qdane Kingi-Falwasser - Ruru

Year 4-5 Hub

Jamie Alexander - Room 4 (Hub Leader)
Ashika Kumar - Room 5
Kirsten Clark - Room 6

Year 2-3 Hub

Natalie Cullen - Moa
Teana Lewis-Karepa - Moa (Hub Leader)
Beth Paterson - Huia
Hifo Taione - Huia
Hannah Bjerga - Huia

Year 0-1 Hub

Rayleen Wihare - Room 1
Kerri Benseman - Room 2
Kai Aw - Room 3 (Hub Leader)

We are on the lookout for blue ice-cream containers for our new maths resources. Please drop any you have to the office! Nga mihi!

REMINDER - Thursday 6th February is Waitangi day holiday and Friday 7th February is Staff Only Day, school will not be open to students.



Term 1 Reminders

Hats

All children must wear hats when playing outside. Please ensure your child has a named hat at school. It is a good idea if you can leave a hat at school so they don't have to remember one each day.

Drop Off

We noticed this morning a lot of families who park at the top of Kōtuku Street, walking across the road with their children. While we know that you can navigate this safely if you do it, the children sometimes think they can do it when they are on their own and they are not able to gauge traffic and put themselves at risk. Please take your children to the crossing to cross them.

Lost Property

We always end up with a lot of lost property at school. Please make sure your children's clothes are named. Please also check your child's bag every day, children often unintentionally grab items they think might be theirs. If your child happens to come home with clothing or items that don't belong to them, please return them to school. We regularly have parents looking for missing clothing in lost property that is not there.

Lost property can be checked in the locker (looks like a seat) in the staffroom courtyard.

Lost property often grows beyond manageable levels. Several times a year, we put all the items out of lost property for collection. If lost property is not collected, we add it to our spare clothes store or we donate them to charity.

Lunches

School lunches can be ordered online at ezlunch.co.nz. Subway has closed temporarily for remodeling, they will resume Wednesday 26th February.

Parent Contact

Please make sure we have a current information on file. We need up to date contacts in case of emergency.

School start time

A reminder that school starts at 8.50am at Rutherford. First thing in the morning is a really important time of the school day. It is when children settle for the day, find out what is going on during the day and get prepared for learning. Even five minutes late means learning is already underway and children find it hard to settle into learning as they don't know what is happening. This is also disrupting the learning of others as teachers often have to stop the teaching they are doing to settle in a child who is late. Arriving at the gate at 8.50am does not allow enough time for children to be ready for the day. Please ensure your child is at school by 8.45am at the latest.

School crossings have staff supporting children till 8.45am when staff come in to get prepared for the day. If you do happen to be running late, we ask that you drop your child at the office to sign in and then we will see them to class. When you take your child to class to settle them, it further disrupts the learning.

Attendance

At Rutherford we strive to meet the government target of 90% attendance. We assist families to keep track of attendance by reporting on our school-wide attendance each week and by letting families know in writing when their child's attendance drops below 90%. If a child's attendance drops below 85%, we will reach out to see how we can support you. The odd day here and there can quickly add up, even with sickness. We are here to support you to ensure that your child can maximise their learning time.

Wishing everyone a fantastic term.

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui
Be Strong, be brave, be determined

Noho ora mai
Amanda Bennett
Tumuaki/Principal



Dear parents and caregivers,

The Auckland Regional Dental Service (ARDS) is a Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora - operated service, which provides FREE dental care to children across the greater Auckland areas. In order to prevent any eligible children missing out on receiving free dental care. ARDs is cross-checking their own records within school rolls.

For our children's better oral health and wellbeing, our school roll will be shared with the service as required. To find out more information about ARDs, please visit ards.co.nz or call 0800 TALK TEETH (0800 825 583)



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GIVE A GO DAY

ROOSTERS HQ

15TH FEB

TE ATATU
12-4:30PM
ALL AGE GROUPS U6-U17S

FUN SKILLS & DRILLS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE, DRINKS & ICE BLOCKS*
FREE BOOT BIN PRIZE DRAWS

NO pressure, Meet the team, coaches, and club whānau and see what were about!
Returning and new whānau welcome. Info on joining for the season. available on the day.

*FREE FOR EVERY CHILD THAT REGISTERS OR REGISTERED



MUSIC LESSONS

AT SCHOOL!

The Music Education Centre offers specialist music tuition for a range of instruments including Piano, Guitar, Drums and more!

IT'S CONVENIENT!

Have your child's music lesson right at their school and give them the opportunity to develop their skills through our **individualised lessons that're both fun and educational!**
Learning music supports all areas of learning through developing confidence, creativity, concentration and so much more!

To enrol, please visit www.musiceducation.co.nz/pages/mis-enrolment



Get ready for school swimming

\$15 Lessons

Spike has \$15 swimming lessons for school age swimmers at Swimsation Te Atatu kicking off with the start of school.

Reserve your spot today
(09) 948 2414

They are aimed to help family budgets & ensure children in our community have a place to learn to swim and a place to cool down after a long, hot day at school.

For more information visit our website



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ATTENDANCE AT RUTHERFORD

Attending school every day unless sick makes a big difference to children's progress and social connection with their friends.

Our aim is to have all children at school at least 90% of the time. This means that children will have no more than 5 days off school each 10 week term. You will be contacted if attendance slips beyond 90%.

Please remember to contact us if your child is going to be absent. We need to code your child's roll according to the Ministry of Education's guidelines.

SCHOOL ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason please choose one of the following options:

- [Notify an absence through the Etap Parent Portal](#)
- [Phone 834 5467 and leave a message](#)
- [Or text the school cellphone 022 324 3942](#)

If the school is not informed of your child's absence/s they will be marked as truant.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Please apply in writing to:

principal@rutherfordprimary.school.nz.

Please also let your child's teacher know.

Include the dates you will be absent. We will pre-code your child's attendance for those days.

These will be coded as an explained but unjustified absence.



LATE TO SCHOOL

Students who arrive after **8.50am MUST report to the school office to sign in.**



Please make your child aware that if they arrive after the bell has gone, they must report to the office to sign in avoiding the need to get in touch with parents.

LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY

Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds unless accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

The teacher and office staff must be informed and the child signed out before leaving the school grounds.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR DETAILS

It's really important to get in touch with you in an emergency. Please let us know any changes to your address, phone number or caregivers so we can keep our records up to date.



ezlunch.co.nz

Sushi Ami	Mondays and Thursdays
Subway	Wednesdays
Pita Pit	Tuesdays and Fridays

Menu items vary in price.

Orders made online only. No cash sales.
Orders close at 9am

IMPORTANT NOTICES



Helmets

Make sure your child wears a helmet when riding their bike or scooter to school. Bikes and scooters must be walked across pedestrian crossings and in the school grounds.

Road safety

We remind you not to stop on yellow lines or drop off in driveways as this becomes a safety hazard for our children.

Parking

Parents and caregivers are permitted to park at the church on Old Te Atatu Road and walk the short distance to school. Please arrange a meeting spot after school with your child/ren.

The school carpark is for staff, visitors and contractors only.

Late to pick up your child/ren

Please phone the school office if you are stuck in traffic or are going to be late. We can arrange for your child to come to the library to wait for you. Siblings of Rutherford College students get picked up from the library.

Dropping off lunches, hats, drink bottles

Drop belongings into the office for your child and we will call for them to collect at an appropriate time. Sometimes they may be in another class or in the swimming pool.